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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer Of Health

for the year

1963

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

L. V. ATACK

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

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CLERK'S DEPARTMENT,

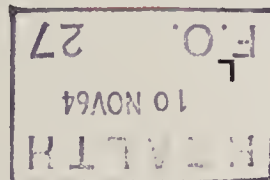
STONE HOUSE, CORVE STREET,

LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE.

MY REF.

MOH/1

YOUR REF.



The Secretary,
Ministry of Health,
Alexander Fleming House,
Elephant and Castle, London, S. E. 1.

9th November, 1964

Dear Sir,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of
Health, 1963.

I refer to Ministry of Health Circular 1/64
and enclose herewith four copies of the above mentioned report in
respect of the Ludlow Rural District Council.

Yours faithfully,

Clerk.

LVA/JF

LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.


ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1963.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health:

William Hall, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Obst., R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

Ronald F. Saunders, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

G.S. Banks, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

L.D. Cowell, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Meat & Food Inspectors:

I.H. Walters, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

W. Fairgrieve , Scottish Meat and Foods Inspection Certificate

Clerk/Typist:

Mrs. E.A. Dyke

Student:

E.G. John - Ceased September 1963.

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LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year
ending 31st December, 1963.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Report on the Health of your District for the year 1963.

The Birth-rate, standardised for the district was 17.03, a figure lower than the Birth rates for the County as a whole and for England and Wales which are 18.68 and 19.2 respectively.

These figures compare unfavourably with the previous year in that the birth-rate in the Rural District is appreciably lower whilst the birth-rates for the County and for England and Wales are rather higher.

The Death-rate standardised for the District was 9.92. The comparable figures for the County and England and Wales are 11.99 and 12.2 respectively.

The Death-rate for the Rural District for the year is therefore very low, and from these figures it is to be inferred that the Rural District contains a gradually ageing population, and it may well be that the population is ageing quicker than is allowed for in the standardisation of the rates.

If, therefore, the population contains a relatively high proportion of elderly people this factor in turn will tend to make the birth rate for the area low, as this rate is expressed as per 1,000 of the population.

Notifications of Infectious Disease remained low during 1963, although the total was slightly higher than in 1962.

There were 28 deaths from cancer out of a total of 139 deaths, but of the 28 deaths from cancer 6, all males, were from cancer of the lung or bronchus.

The work of the Public Health Department continues to grow, not only in keeping abreast with new legislation but also in the volume of work undertaken. The Shropshire Fatstock Society's Abattoir at Craven Arms and the requirements for meat inspection place considerable strain upon the Council's Inspectors. The increase by 9,651 animals slaughtered and inspected over the number inspected in 1962 bringing the total animals inspected to 98,914 during the year is an indication of the intense effort called for.

The provision of Public Health Services for Church Stretton pending the amalgamation of the two Local Authorities encroached materially upon the resources of the department, but a reasonable service was able to be given.

My thanks are due to Mr. R.F. Saunders and the staff of the Health Department for their willing help at all times, and for providing most of Section C of this Report, and to Mr. Shaw for providing information on the position of the Water Supply Schemes at 31st December, being the remainder of Section C; and to the County Medical Officer of Health for allowing me to publish the information in Section B.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HALL

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL AND LOCAL STATISTICS.

1963.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES.

Birth-rate	18.2
Still Birth-rate	17.2
Infant Mortality Rate	21.1
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	14.2
Perinatal Mortality Rate	29.3
Death-rate	12.2

VITAL STATISTICS FOR COUNTY OF SALOP.

Birth-rate (Standardised)	18.68
Still Birth-rate	17.5
Infant Mortality Rate	17.6
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	12.6
Perinatal Mortality Rate	27.9
Death-rate (Standardised)	11.99

STATISTICS FOR LUDLOW RURAL DISTRICT.

Area (in acres)	112,823
Registrar-General's estimate of the population (mid 1963)	13,450
Number of inhabitable houses (at 31.12.63)	4,377
Rateable Value of the District (at 1.4.63)	£314,524
Estimated product of 1d Rate	£1,220

Live Births:

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	111	79	190
Illegitimate	6	5	11
	117	84	201

Illegitimate live Births as % of
Total live Births

= 5.5%

Live Birth-rate per 1,000 of the
Population

= Crude 14.94
= Standardised 17.03

Still Births:

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	2	-	2

Still Birth-rate per 1,000 total births = 9.85

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - Number of deaths Rate per 1,000
live births

(a) All infants per 1,000 total livebirths	2	9.95
(b) Legitimate infants per 1,000	1	5.26
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	1	90.91
(d) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks	1	4.96
(e) Deaths of Infants under 1 week	1	4.96
(f) Perinatal Mortality Rate	14.78 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	

Maternal Mortality:- Nil

Deaths	M.	F.	Total
Death rate per 1,000 of the population	76	63	139
= Crude			10.33
= Standardised			9.92

Population:

The Registrar-General's estimated figure of the population in the Rural District at the 30th June 1963 was 13,450. This was 30 more than the estimated figure for the previous year.

Births:

Live births numbered 201 (Legitimate - 190, Illegitimate - 11) giving a 'Crude' birthrate of 14.94. Applying the comparability factor of 1.14 the corrected birth rate becomes 17.03.

Still Births:

There were two still births and this gives a still birth rate of 9.85 against the rate for the Country as a whole which is 17.3. The figures upon which the still birth-rate is calculated are so small that the rate has little significance.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

Two deaths were reported of children under the age of one year. The Infantile Mortality Rate is therefore, 9.95. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the Country is 20.9.

Deaths:

The total number of deaths registered was 139 (male 76, female 63) a decrease of 21 compared with the previous year. This gives a 'Crude' Death rate of 10.33 when the comparability factor of 0.96 is applied the comparable death rate becomes 9.92. Figures showing the chief causes of deaths will be found at the end of the Report.

Natural Increase of Population.

The number of live births exceeds the total number of deaths by 62.

SECTION B.

Personal Health Services.

These Services are provided by the County Council under the authority of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(a) Child Welfare Centres.

Child Welfare Centres are provided in Ludlow and Cleobury Mortimer and are held as follows:-

Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow.	:	Every Monday.
East Hamlet Hall, Ludlow	:	Every Thursday.
Parish Hall, Cleobury Mortimer	:	1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month.

Attendances at these Welfare Centres during 1963 were as follows:

Welfare Centre	Total Cases	Total Attendances
Ludlow (Dinham)	151	837
Ludlow (East Hamlet)	74	510
Cleobury Mortimer	127	863

An ante-natal clinic is also held at the Ludlow Child Welfare Centre every Monday, being conducted by one of the County Council's Assistant Medical Officers. The Ludlow District Nurse-Midwives hold their own ante-natal clinic at the Centre on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each month.

It is impossible to give any indication in the table above of how many of the children attending the Ludlow Centre are children from the Rural District and one must assume that the majority are from the Borough.

(b) Care of Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children.

A Moral Welfare Worker employed by the Hereford Diocesan Association to whom an annual grant is paid by the County Council, is based in Ludlow and works throughout the Rural District.

The County Council also makes substantial grants to two Mother and Baby Homes affiliated to the Lichfield Diocese, but within the County, to which cases from any County District may be admitted.

The County Council has contractual arrangements with Herefordshire for the admission of cases to the Hereford Mother and Baby Home.

(c) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

People living in Ludlow Rural District normally obtain National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Codliver Oil and Vitamin Tablets) at the County Councils Welfare Centre, Dinham, Ludlow on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday mornings. For those people living some distance from Ludlow arrangements exist whereby National Welfare Foods are distributed by Voluntary Workers from Distribution points in the following districts:- Cleo Hill, Cleo St. Margaret, Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms and Munslow.

Midwifery.

The County Council employ a total of eleven midwives in the Ludlow Rural District, and two of this number also operate in the Borough.

Throughout the whole area they undertake district nursing as well as midwifery duties.

The following table gives details of the midwifery work carried out by these midwives during 1963:-

Nursing District	Total Confinements	Total Domiciliary Visits	Attendances on Discharged Institutional Cases	
			Cases	Visits
Burford	12	291	14	36
Church Stretton	19	532	23	57
Cleobury Mortimer	12	382	55	99
Craven Arms	19	499	16	73
Ludlow	24	647	28	126
Munslow	3	88	7	47
Stoke St. Milborough	5	132	4	9

The Nursing Districts comprising groups of parishes, do not conform to the Rural District Boundary and the figures given above therefore in some cases (Church Stretton and Ludlow) will include many cases from outside the Ludlow Rural District).

Health Visiting.

Two full-time Health Visitors are employed by the County Council in the Ludlow Rural District and one of these (Miss G.L. Ward) who is based in Ludlow also undertakes health visiting in the Borough.

Home Nursing.

As stated above the midwives employed by the County Council in the Rural District undertake the home nursing duties.

Only in the Borough of Ludlow itself does the County Council employ a Home Nurse solely to undertake these duties.

Cases attended and visits made during 1963 were as follows:-

Nursing District	Home Nursing Cases	Visits
Burford	63	1288
Church Stretton	411	6109
Cleobury Mortimer	144	1821
Craven Arms	81	1972
Ludlow	119	3778
Munslow	64	885
Stoke St. Milborough	57	1099

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Protection is offered, in particular to pre-school children, school children and in special circumstances to others, against Smallpox, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Tetanus and Poliomyelitis and to children of and above the age of thirteen years against Tuberculosis.

The immunisation procedure is carried out in many cases by General Medical Practitioners, and by School Medical Officers in Clinics and Schools.

The tables below give the numbers of children from the Rural District who have availed themselves of the facilities offered.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

1963.

		County Council Medical Officers	General Practitioners	Total
Diphtheria	Primary	45	129	174
	Boosters	44	58	102
Whooping Cough				
Primary		33	128	161
Smallpox	Performed	12	83	95
	Successful	12	77	89
Tetanus				
Primary		61	189	250
Poliomyelitis	3rd doses or injections	137	112	249
	4th doses or injections	172	4	176

B.C.G. VACCINATION - 1963.

SCHOOL	CONSENT FORMS GIVEN OUT	REFUSALS	NUMBER OF CONSENTS PRESENTED	NUMBER OF CHILDREN SKIN TESTED	SKIN TEST READINGS POS. NEG.	NUMBER VACCINATED
Stokesay	10	-	10	10	- 10	10
Diddlebury	1	-	1	1	- 1	1
Munslow	3	-	3	2	- 2	2
Cleobury Mortimer	79	6	73	67	6 60	59
Culmington Hill House	4	-	4	4	- 4	4
City of Coventry	53	1	52	50	4 46	45

Ambulance Service.

The Central Ambulance Station is in Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury (Tel. No. Shrewsbury 6331).

There is a local Ambulance Depot in Ludlow where four ambulances and one dual purpose vehicle are based.

Drivers are on call and can be called out at any time during the day or night.

One dual purpose vehicle is kept at a garage in Craven Arms for local convenience.

During 1963 these six vehicles made 3,582 journeys carrying 9,884 patients a total distance of 135,178 miles.

Arrangements for calling out ambulances are normally made through doctors and hospitals but in emergency calls from anyone are put through to the Central Ambulance Station and appropriate arrangements made.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.

(a) All home nurses and midwives hold a small supply of minor articles of nursing equipment such as hot water bottles, air rings, bed pans and feeding cups, for loan to patients being nursed at home.

(b) The treatment of tuberculosis falls to Regional Hospital Boards to provide in the way of Sanatoria and Chest Clinics, but the preventive and after care side of the work is shared between the Hospital Boards and Local Health Authorities. The County Council for their share provide open-air shelters where required. They also join with Regional Boards in making from time to time local arrangements for Mass Miniature Radiography Surveys, and through their Health Visitors undertake a considerable amount of follow-up work with patients. Extra nourishment may in necessitous cases be provided.

(c) Arrangements are made under this section for the convalescence of persons not requiring special medical or nursing care.

(d) Through their Mental Welfare Officers and Health Visitors the County Council are responsible for the supervision in their own homes of mentally handicapped persons and also for helping general medical practitioners to secure hospital treatment for those persons who become mentally unbalanced.

Domestic Help.

The County Council provides a fairly comprehensive Domestic Help Service through branch offices.

The greater part of this area is served from the Ludlow Home Help Office which is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. A small section in the North, however, is served from the Church Stretton Home Help Office which opens on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

During the year ended 31st December 1963 the services of the County Council's Home Helps directed from the Ludlow Office were made available in 63 homes in the Borough and Rural District. In 61 cases the help was provided for the benefit of aged and chronic sick persons, in one case help was needed on account of temporary illness and in a further five homes domiciliary confinements had occurred.

Hospital Service.

In addition to the Services provided by the County Council under the provisions of the National Health Service Act, the Hospital and Specialist Services provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board must be briefly mentioned.

The District is served principally by the hospitals under the Shrewsbury Hospital Management Committee centred at the Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury. The Ludlow and District Hospital and East Hamlet Hospital serve local needs and Specialist Clinics or Out-Patient Sessions are held at the first mentioned hospital as follows:-

Out Patient Clinic	Day & Time	Consultant
Gynaecological	Wednesday 2 p.m.	Mr. S. Burke
General Surgery	Alternate Wednesdays 9 a.m.	Mr. J.A. Baty
General Medicine	Alternate Mondays 2.30 p.m. Alternate Wednesdays 9.45 a.m.	Dr.A.W.J.Houghton Dr.W.D. Wallace
E.N.T.	Alternate Mondays 1.45 p.m.	Mr. E.N. Owen
Paediatric	Third Tuesday in month 2.0 p.m.	Dr. J.C. Macaulay.
Psychiatric	Friday 2.0 p.m.	Dr. J. Littlejohn.
Radio Therapy	1st Saturday in month 11.0 a.m.	Dr. E.J. Richardson

An orthopaedic after care clinic is held at East Hamlet Hospital on Monday afternoons at six weekly intervals.

A Chest Clinic is held on the third Tuesday in each month at 11.0 a.m. at the Child Welfare Centre, Dinham, Ludlow. Although this clinic is provided by the Regional Hospital Board it is held at the County Council's Centre.

For the convenience of local residents an Orthopaedic Clinic is conducted in the Mission Room, Corvedale Road, Craven Arms from 11.0 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Mondays each month.

Cases from the District are admitted to the Royal Salop Infirmary, The Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital and Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury, or elsewhere as the need arises.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Salop Infirmary is extensively used for the bacteriological examination of water, milk and ice cream.

Chemical analyses of water samples and sewage effluents are made by the Public Analyst at Warrington.

Good Laboratory facilities are very necessary to the work of the Health Department, and I should like to express my thanks to Dr. A.C. Jones of the Shrewsbury Laboratory and his staff for their assistance, in particular perhaps for their invaluable advice when some bacteriological or epidemiological problem arises.

1. Water Supply Schemes.a) South Eastern Parishes Water Supply Scheme - Stage II.

The whole of the work on this scheme was completed by March 1963.

b) Western Area Water Supply Scheme, Stage I - Contract 4.

The whole of this Contract was completed by March 1963, apart from the laying of some of the communication pipes. Labour strength on this work was increased to cope with the demand, but there were still a large number of communication pipes to be laid when the East Shropshire Water Board took over on 1st April, 1963.

c) Western Area Water Supply Scheme - Contract 5.

The whole of this Contract was completed, including communication pipes by March 1963.

d) Joint High Level Water Supply Scheme.

Tenders were requested for this scheme at the beginning of 1963, and the work on this contract commenced later in the year.

e) Capital Scheme - Water Supply - General.

The East Shropshire Water Board came into being on 1st April, 1963. In anticipation of this event, the Council decided that it was in the interests of all parties to complete as much of the work in contract as possible (particularly Contracts 4 and 5) so as to make the taking over of its water supply functions by the Board as easy as possible. Consequently all the staff available were used to complete the outstanding work, both physical and administrative, on South Eastern Parishes Water Supply Scheme Stage II and on Western Area Water Supply Scheme Contracts 4 and 5.

The next Stage of Western Area Water Supply Scheme (Stage II) had been approved by the Minister in October 1962 and permission to call for tenders was given. The scheme was handed over to the Board at 1st April 1963 for completion, but the Board found it impossible to get the work out to tender in 1963.

f) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme, Craven Arms.

Work continued satisfactorily on this scheme throughout 1963. The contract was 75% completed by December of that year.

2. Sanitary Circumstances in the Area.(a) Water Supplies.Purity of Supplies.

The undermentioned samples were taken for bacteriological examination from public supplies in the area:

Source	Total No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Birmingham Aqueduct	5	4	1
Bitterley	2	2	-
Burford	4	3	1
Clee Hill	4	4	-
Clee St. Margaret			
(a) Council Houses	2	1	1
(b) Village Well	2	1	1
Cleobury Mortimer	7	4	3
Coreley	4	4	-
Craven Arms	4	4	-
Culmington & Seifton	6	4	2
Diddlebury	4	3	1
Hope Bowdler	3	3	-
Carried forward	47	37	10

Source	Total No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Brought forward	47	37	10
Longville-in-the-Dale	4	3	1
Middleton	2	2	-
Munslow	5	3	2
Onibury	1	1	-
St. Milburgha's Well	3	1	2
Ticklerton	3	3	-
Wall-under-Heywood	4	3	1
Totals	69	53	16

In addition two samples were taken from the well serving the Council houses at Wheatcommon; both were found to be bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

In the main the public supplies were satisfactory, the unsatisfactory samples showing only slight pollution. As from April 1st copies of all unsatisfactory reports on samples from the East Shropshire Water Board's mains were sent to the Board's Engineer. More houses were connected to the mains, in some cases as a direct result of action by the Public Health Inspectors. The village well at Nash was found to be polluted; the Council subsequently negotiated with the Water Board with a view to a mains supply being provided.

Less than one quarter (29 out of 126) of the samples taken from private supplies were satisfactory. Most of these satisfactory samples were from supplies where pollution had previously been found and advice had been given or from boreholes. Supplies serving ten properties were made satisfactory after recommended works had been carried out. Work was still in progress on supplies to about 20 other properties at the end of the year. In some cases filtration or chlorination was found to be the only way of making the water satisfactory.

Water from the well on Clee Hill, to be used by the Ministry of Aviation for the radar station, is still not satisfactory; it is understood that chlorination plant may be installed.

(b) Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Ashford Carbonell.

With the exception of one or two houses owned by aged or infirm persons the conversion of closets in this village has been completed.

Clee Hill.

Two closets were converted with the aid of the £25 lump sum grant during the year. Some other conversions were included in improvement grant schemes. Only a few premises now remain to be dealt with and the Council have fixed a time limit for payment of grant.

(c) Private Drainage.

Improvements were made to several private drainage systems during the year. The Summer months produced an unusually high number of complaints about drainage, particularly septic tanks. There appears to be a feeling that once a septic tank has been constructed it can be completely forgotten; so much so that in some cases the position of the tank is unknown, the tank having been covered by a lawn or something similar.

(d) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This vital Public Health service has been continued during the year giving a weekly collection in Cleobury Mortimer and Craven Arms and a fortnightly collection elsewhere. The crews of both vehicles did extremely well in maintaining the service during the bad winter weather. Every effort was made to collect regularly. In some cases the collectors had to travel on the vehicles loading steps as the cutting through the

snow was not wide enough to allow the cab doors to be opened. In other cases the men walked through the snow with sacks to collect refuse from premises which the vehicles could not reach.

Some complaints about the lack of a weekly collection from all premises were received. These were mainly from the occupiers of public houses with a catering business. Complaints are also received at times about the "kerbside" collection, particularly from persons who have moved to the district and have previously had a collection from the premises.

The Austin/Eagle vehicle replaced at the end of 1962 was sold early in the year. The two Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tippers have given very little trouble during the year. The two covered a total of about 24,000 miles. The amount of refuse collected since the service was improved in 1961 was increased considerably, so much so that the tips, particularly the one at Cleobury Mortimer, are filling far quicker than expected.

Four disposal tips have been in use - at Cleobury Mortimer, Shaw Bank, Woofferton and Onibury Lane. A small tip at Westhope is still rented by the Council; it is used mainly by local people who take their own rubbish to it.

Only two complaints, one of flies and one of rats, were received about the tips during the year. It is probable that neither would have arisen if fully controlled tipping had been in operation.

Litter.

The number of bins and baskets in the district continues to increase; extra ones are frequently asked for by Parish Councils. About 130 bins are now in use in the district, including some provided by the County Council. The question of an ice-cream salesman filling bins on Clee Hill Common with empty cartons and wrappings was taken up with the manufacturers and the practice was stopped.

In general the provision of receptacles has gone a long way to meeting the litter problem, but on lay-bys on the main road, Ludlow - Shrewsbury (A49) the problem is a recurring one, particularly as so much litter is not put in the receptacles. This matter is now under discussion with the Salop County Council and the Rural District Councils Association.

(e) Rodent Control.

There was a further increase in the amount of contract work, during 1963. Seventy-eight contracts were in force at the end of the year of total value about £600. Twenty-one single treatments were carried out at nineteen properties; these brought in a further £70.

Work was also carried out for the Church Stretton Urban District Council. The value of this service was nearly £60.

Heavy infestations were found during the last three months of the year. The work of control became very great making it impossible for a time for one man to cope adequately. This seasonal influx from the fields was far greater than normal, but by the end of the year matters were under control again. Survey of the district was continued throughout the year.

Warfarin, a preparation used for many years in this country, is now, in certain small areas, ineffective against rats; so called "Warfarin resistance" has developed.

Some minor cases of difficulty have occurred in this district but so far no proof of "Warfarin resistance" has been established.

Mr. F. Mear, the operator, who has passed normal retiring age, had his period of service extended for a further twelve months as from August 1963.

(f) Factories & Workshops.

There are 75 factories on the register; 64 with mechanical power and 11 without mechanical power. Nine visits were made during the year. Two contraventions were found and the necessary action taken. The factories Acts require sanitary accommodation to be provided on building sites and at sites of civil engineering works. Contractors are notified of this requirement.

(g) Inspections by the Public Health Inspectors.

Meat Inspection	961
Housing (Public Health & Housing Acts)	415
Water supply	349
Refuse collection and disposal	212
Poultry Inspection	192
Food and Food Premises (Other than poultry and meat inspection)	164
Drainage	124
Caravans and Caravan Sites	115
Housing Applicants	105
Air Pollution	31
Infectious Diseases	6
Miscellaneous Visits	164
Total	<u>2838</u>

In addition 560 visits were made for the Church Stretton Urban District Council.

These figures show a reduction compared with those for 1962. The main reasons were:-

1. The new Meat Inspection Regulations and the consequent moving of Mr. Banks from Church Stretton to meat inspection work at Craven Arms.

2. The loss of the services of Mr. E.G. John, who left in September.

Numbers of informal notices served:

<u>Category</u>	<u>No.</u>
Food Hygiene	32
General	29
Water supply	27
House repairs	21
Drainage	17
Caravans	17
Rodent Control	<u>6</u>
Total	149

Most of the notices were complied with by 31st December, excepting some served late in the year.

3. Housing.

General Statement.

(A) No. of inhabitable houses, including Council houses and business premises with living accommodation as at 1st January, 1963 4343

Additions:

Number of houses constructed during the year:

(a) Council houses	NIL	
(b) Private houses	46	
	<u>46</u>	46
		<u>4389</u>

Number of additional houses provided by the conversion of older houses 4

Number of houses brought back into use as a result of complying with undertakings 5
4398

Deductions:

Number of houses (1) Closed	14	
(2) Demolished	5	
Conversion of two or more houses into one	<u>2</u>	
	<u>21</u>	21

Number of inhabitable houses, including Council houses and business premises with living accommodation as at 31st December, 1963 4377

(B) House Allocation.

This work was continued during the year. Most of these visits were about the fifteen casual vacancies and various transfers dealt with by the Tenancies Committee.

A review of applications was in progress at the end of the year; the figures resulting were as follows:

<u>Applications</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Percentages</u>
(1) For houses	183	67.3
(2) For dwellings for elderly persons	73	26.8
(3) For transfers	16	5.9
	<u>272</u>	<u>100.0</u>

(C) Housing Conditions.

Housing conditions generally are gradually improving, being helped greatly by the very worthwhile expansion of public services, particularly water and electricity supply and sewerage, of recent years.

At Cleobury Mortimer there has been a good deal of new private development. This coupled with the Council's schemes for Council houses and bungalows for elderly persons, will improve the position there considerably. The further grouped dwellings schemes for elderly persons planned for Clee Hill and Craven Arms will also help.

Throughout the district as a whole great numbers of houses that are unfit in varying degree still remain to be removed or repaired and reconditioned to modern standards of amenity.

(D) Action under Housing Act.

The following is a summary of statutory action taken during the year regarding unfit houses.

Number of houses closed under terms of Closing Orders	5
Number of houses closed under terms of undertakings given by owners	9
Number of houses demolished	5
Number of houses made fit and undertakings or orders revoked	5
Number of Demolition Orders changed to Closing Orders	1

Informal Action.

Number of houses made fit as a result of informal action	11
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(E) Moveable dwellings.

At 31st December 1963 there were 144 caravans on 37 licensed sites in the district. These were made up of 114 for seasonal holiday use, 23 for permanent residential use, 5 for temporary residential use and two moveable dwellings licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936.

The two largest sites, at Doddington and Burford, both for holiday use are well kept and provided with excellent facilities. A general ignorance of the law relating to caravans continues. Two more large holiday sites are likely to be brought into use during 1964.

4. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Meat Inspection.

The only slaughterhouse in use during the year was that of the Shropshire Fatstock Society at Craven Arms. The number of animals slaughtered and inspected was 98,914 an increase of 9651 over the figure for 1962.

Government grant for so called "export" meat inspection ended on 31st March 1963. On 1st October the new Meat Inspection Regulations came into force. Under these Regulations Local Authorities have to carry out the inspection of all animals killed in their district for human consumption - to a new statutory standard, higher than that used previously by most authorities. Briefly, it is now obligatory to inspect the carcass and all offal and parts removed from the animal and, subsequently, to stamp the carcass.

The stamp has to identify the Local Authority and the inspector who carried out the inspection.

This more detailed inspection means that considerably more time has to be spent inspecting each individual animal. Also, with large scale line slaughtering, the only way to carry out this inspection is for one inspector to be working on each slaughtering line throughout the entire period of slaughtering. At present, at Craven Arms, this means that two inspectors must always be at the Abattoir. When the new sheep slaughter hall is complete at times three lines may be in use at once. This would mean having an extra inspector on duty.

In August the Committee took action to obtain extra staff. Mr. W. Fairgrieve was appointed and commenced duties on 16th October, 1963.

Numbers of animals slaughtered and carcasses
inspected in 1963.

	Cattle (Ex.Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
Numbers killed	8022	2069	3797	55381	29645	98914
Numbers inspected	8022	2069	3797	55381	29645	98914

All diseases except
Tuberculosis &
Cysticercus Bovis.

Whole carcasses condemned	19	13	26	189	20	
Organs or parts condemned	837	749	22	1064	1860	
Percentage affected	10.67%	36.83%	1.26%	2.26%	6.34%	

Tuberculosis Only.

Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	2	
Organs or parts condemned	-	1	-	-	301	
Percentage affected	0.01%	0.05%	-	-	1.02%	

Cysticercus Bovis.

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	
Organs or parts condemned	16	4	-	-	-	
Percentage affected	0.20%	0.19%	-	-	-	

Weight of meat condemned:

1. On account of Tuberculosis	4249
2. On account of Cysticercus Bovis	1425
3. On account of other diseases	57620
	<u>63294</u>

= 28 Tons, 5 Cwts., 14 lbs.

(b) Poultry Inspection.

Rejected - 4834 birds weighing 9743 lbs.

Daily visits to The Grove were maintained for the first nine months of the year but less frequent visits were made after 1st October as a result of the pressure of meat inspection work. Many visits were made during November and December for the voluntary surrender of birds. As will be seen from the figures above the average weight of birds surrendered was only about 2 lbs.

(c) Other Foods.

Various other foods were inspected, mainly at the request of owners and managers of retail shops and school canteen supervisors. Condemnations were:

2 x 10 lb. tins apricot pulp	20 lbs.
9 lbs. rolled oats	9 lbs.
9 lbs. mixed dry vegetables	9 lbs.

(d) Food Hygiene.

Food Hygiene Regulations.

About half of the food premises in the district were visited during the year. Again, meat inspection work caused a good deal of interference.

Some investigations about the use of frozen food cabinets were carried out as a result of the memorandum of the Rural District Council's Association on the subject. In the main it was found that de-frosting was not carried out frequently enough. Apart from this conditions generally were satisfactory.

Ice-Cream.

The number of premises registered for the sale of ice cream at 31st December, 1963 was 51. There are no manufacturers in the district. Seven samples were taken during the year; six were grade one. Conditions generally were satisfactory.

5. General.

(a) Knackers Yards.

Regular visits have been made to the two knackers yards in the district. Conditions generally have been satisfactory, but during the Summer it was found that the bone storage arrangements were inadequate and were causing considerable blow fly nuisance.

The owner agreed to provide new stores, properly fly proofed, and to remove bones more frequently.

(b) Air Pollution.

Thirty-one visits were made during the year and some Ringelman Chart smoke observations made. The Ringelman Chart is a method of assessing the density of smoke and is referred to in the Clean Air Act of 1956. One factory in the South of the district was causing considerable smoke nuisance until the boiler was replaced by an oil fired one.

(c) New Legislation.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

This Act, enforced partly by the Local Authority and partly by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Factories, contains provisions regarding overcrowding, lighting, heating, sanitary accommodation etc., rather similar to provisions which have been in force for factories for many years.

The Act will come into force by stages throughout 1964 at dates being fixed by the Ministry.

R.F. SAUNDERS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SECTION D.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following cases were notified during the year ended 31st December, 1963:-

Scarlet Fever	-	-	Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	2
Measles	-	34	Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	-	3
Whooping Cough	-	12	Dysentery	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	5	Erysipelas	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	Meningococcal Infection	-	1

The total number of notifications received was 57 compared with a total of 25 during 1962, the increase being attributable to a rise in the number of measles notifications.

Diphtheria.

There have been no cases of this condition in the District during the last twenty years.

Poliomyelitis.

No cases of Poliomyelitis were reported.

Tuberculosis.

Two cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and three cases of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were, however no deaths from these conditions.

Particulars of the 58 cases remaining on the Tuberculosis Register on 31st December, 1963 are as follows:

	Respiratory Tuberculosis	Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis
Male	20	10
Female	20	8
	<u>40</u>	<u>18</u>

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1963.

Cause	Male	Female	Total
Diseases of Heart and Circulatory System	34	24	58
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	15	20
Malignant Diseases	13	15	28
Bronchitis	5	-	5
Pneumonia	6	2	8
Diabetes	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	-	3
All other Accidents	1	2	3
Suicide	-	1	1
Homicide & Operations of War	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	-
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	-	-	-
All other causes	8	4	12
Total ...	<u>76</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>139</u>

Deaths from Cancer (all forms):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Population
Ludlow Rural District	28	2.08
County of Salop	580	1.89

Of the 28 deaths from cancer 6 males died of cancer of the Lung or Bronchus. Thus 21.7% of cancer deaths were due to this form, representing a death rate of 0.45 per 1000 population.

APPENDIX.

Factories Act, 1961.

1. Inspection for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	64	8	2	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises.)	-	-	3	-
Total	75	9	5	-

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature(S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.5)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	1	-

